

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-162. (cancelled).

163. (previously presented) A system for treating urinary incontinence comprising,
a shaft having a curved portion; and
a sling assembly including
a urethral support sling having a substantially flat shape,
a pouch for covering only partially the sling, and
an end for associating with an end of the shaft.

164. (previously presented) The system of claim 163, wherein the shaft comprises first and second ends, the first end of the shaft attaches to a handle, and the second end of the shaft associates with the sling assembly.

165. (currently amended) The system of claim 163, wherein the shaft comprises an engaging member ~~a channel~~ located at a distal end.

166. (currently amended) The system of claim 165, wherein the engaging member ~~channel~~ is ~~lockable for locking~~ capable of engaging the end of the sling assembly in ~~the channel~~.

167. (currently amended) The system of claim 166, wherein the engaging member ~~channel~~ is capable of ~~releasably lockable~~ engaging the end of the sling assembly.

168-169. (cancelled)

170. (previously presented) The system of claim 163, wherein the sling assembly comprises an elongated extension located at the end of the sling assembly.

171. (previously presented) The system of claim 163, wherein the sling assembly comprises an aperture located at the end of the sling assembly.

172. (cancelled)

173. (previously presented) The system of claim 163, wherein the pouch comprises an opening intermediate to first and second ends of the sling assembly.

174. (previously presented) The system of claim 163, wherein the pouch is substantially flat.

175. (currently amended) A system for treating urinary incontinence comprising, a shaft having a solid cross-section for a substantial length of the shaft and having a curved portion and an engaging member interlocking mating structure on a distal end of the shaft; and

a sling assembly comprising a urethral support sling having a substantially flat shape, and [[a]] an engaging surface complementary to the engaging member interlocking mating structure;

wherein, the engaging member is capable of securely engaging the engaging surface.

176. (currently amended) The system of claim 175, wherein the engaging member interlocking mating structure of the shaft is inserted into the engaging surface complementary interlocking mating structure of the sling assembly.

177. (currently amended) The system of claim 175, wherein the shaft is capable of receiving lockable to the sling assembly.

178. (currently amended) The system of claim 175, wherein the shaft is capable of releasably receiving lockable to the sling assembly.

179. (previously presented) The system of claim 175, wherein the sling assembly is indirectly connected to the shaft.

180. (currently amended) The system of claim 175, wherein the engaging surface complementary interlocking mating structure is indirectly connected to the sling assembly.

181. (cancelled)

182. (previously presented) The system of claim 175, wherein the sling assembly further comprises a pouch for covering only partially the sling.

183. (previously presented) The system of claim 182, wherein the pouch comprises an opening intermediate to first and second end of the sling assembly.

184. (previously presented) The system of claim 182, wherein the pouch is substantially flat.

185. (currently amended) A system for treating urinary incontinence comprising,
a shaft having a solid cross-section for a substantial length of the shaft and
having a curved portion and a distal end; and
a sling assembly comprising a urethral support sling having a substantially
flat shape, and an end ~~for receiving~~ capable of fitting over the distal end of the shaft.

186. (currently amended) The system of claim 185, wherein the shaft is capable of
engaging ~~lockable to~~ the sling assembly.

187. (currently amended) The system of claim 185, wherein the shaft is capable of
~~releasably~~ engaging ~~lockable to~~ the sling assembly.

188. (previously presented) The system of claim 185, wherein the sling assembly
is indirectly connected to the shaft.

189. (cancelled)

190. (previously presented) The system of claim 185, wherein the sling assembly
further comprises a pouch for covering only partially the sling.

191. (previously presented) The system of claim 190, wherein the pouch
comprises an opening intermediate to first and second ends of the sling assembly.

192. (previously presented) The system of claim 190, wherein the pouch is substantially flat.
193. (currently amended) A system for treating urinary incontinence comprising,
a handle;
a shaft having a solid cross-section for a substantial length of the shaft and
attached to the handle and having an engaging member ~~a channel~~ located at an end
and a curved portion; and
a sling assembly comprising a urethral support sling having a substantially
flat shape, and an end ~~for associating with~~ capable of securely engaging the engaging
member channel of the shaft.
194. (currently amended) The system of claim 193, wherein the engaging member
~~channel~~ is ~~lockable for locking~~ capable of receiving the end of the sling assembly ~~in~~
~~the channel~~.
195. (currently amended) The system of claim 193, wherein the engaging member
~~channel~~ is capable of releasably lockable receiving the end of the sling assembly.
196. (cancelled)
197. (previously presented) The system of claim 193, wherein the sling assembly
comprises an elongated extension located at the end of the sling assembly.
198. (previously presented) The system of claim 193, wherein the sling assembly
comprises an aperture located at the end of the sling assembly.
199. (cancelled)
200. (previously presented) The system of claim 193, wherein the sling assembly
further comprises a pouch for covering only partially the sling.

201. (previously presented) The system of claim 200, wherein the pouch comprises an opening intermediate to first and second ends of the sling assembly.
202. (previously presented) The system of claim 200, wherein the pouch is substantially flat.
203. (previously presented) The system of claim 163, wherein the pouch covers an end of the sling.
204. (previously presented) The system of claim 182, wherein the pouch covers an end of the sling.
205. (previously presented) The system of claim 190, wherein the pouch covers an end of the sling.
206. (previously presented) The system of claim 200, wherein the pouch covers an end of the sling.
207. (new) The system of claim 163, wherein the sling is releasably withdrawable from said pouch.
208. (new) The system of claim 182, wherein the sling is releasably withdrawable from said pouch.
209. (new) The system of claim 190, wherein the sling is releasably withdrawable from said pouch.
210. (new) The system of claim 200, wherein the sling is releasably withdrawable from said pouch.